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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 24, 2003

MORE THAN **\$16 BILLION** IN DEFICIT SPENDING PREVENTED THIS WEEK

Don't bust the budget to score political points, Cornyn says

WASHINGTON—During debate on H.R. 2555, the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for 2004*, Senate Democrats attempted to circumvent the Congressional Budget Act with billions in extra spending not requested by either the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or the White House. U.S. Sen. John Cornyn derided the attempts to bust the federal budget caps by more than **\$16 billion**, this week alone, as an “irresponsible breach of the Senate’s fiduciary duty” to the taxpayers.

“The same crowd that spent the bulk of this month howling about deficits, are now engaged in a wholesale attempt to bust the budget caps. This cynical ploy of introducing amendments that don’t fit within the budget, weren’t requested, and have little chance of passage in an attempt to score political points stands in stark contrast to their pious outbursts just last week,” said Cornyn, a member of the Senate Budget Committee.

Senate Republicans this week turned back all seven attempts to override a budget resolution passed by the Senate earlier this year. The failed amendments would have added **\$16.476 billion** in new deficit spending.

“Last year, under Democrat leadership, the Senate failed to pass a budget for the first time since the Ford administration, and unprecedented levels of spending were the result. But unlike last year’s fiscal lapses, the Republican-led Senate passed a fiscally responsible budget that emphasizes funding for national priorities: The war on terrorism, homeland security, economic growth and job creation, and solutions to the long-term fiscal challenges presented by Medicare and Social Security,” Cornyn said.

Sen. Cornyn continued: “The homeland security funding bill already meets, and exceeds, the requests of DHS, and I urge my colleagues not to bust the budget in an attempt to score political points. We have 10 more appropriations bills to consider this year and I hope this pattern of reckless attempts to grow the deficit doesn’t become a habit.”

H.R. 2555 provides \$29.326 billion in appropriations for FY 2004 DHS requirements. As introduced, the funding is divided among five main categories: \$516.3 million for operations, management and oversight; \$229.4 million for citizen and immigrations services; \$19.44 billion for security, enforcement and investigations; \$8.27 billion for assessments, preparedness and recovery; and \$871.4 million for research and development.

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As of 3:00 p.m. Thursday, the following amendments had been considered in the Senate during the Week of July 21st on the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, H.R. 2555*. All had Congressional Budget Act points of order sustained against them preventing further deficit spending:

Byrd amendment	\$1.749 billion
Murray amendment	\$100 million
Schumer amendment	\$69.8 million
Mikulski amendment	\$150 million
Corzine amendment	\$80 million
Baucus/Schumer amendment	\$200 million
Dodd amendment	\$14.407 BILLION

Total: **\$16.476 billion** in attempted DEFICIT spending—not including interest costs.

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2004 Homeland Security Funding

The Senate bill, without the budget busting amendments, fully funds the administration's request, and provides an additional \$149,006,000 in new homeland security funding.

Administration's request for FY 2004:	\$29,176,994,000
Senate appropriations bill (without amendments):	\$29,326,000,000